

NEWS RELEASE

Barley Varieties
July 21, 2004

Robust is still the top barley variety in North Dakota

Robust remains the top barley variety in North Dakota for 2004, though currently seeded on the fewest acres in two decades. The 1983 Minnesota release has been North Dakota's leading variety 19 of the last 20 years. Legacy is the second most popular variety this year, surpassing Lacey and Conlon which drop to third and fourth respectively. Drummond is fifth, up from seventh last year. These five malt barley varieties account for 82.2 percent of this year's barley acres in North Dakota. North Dakota continues to rank first in barley planted acreage in the United States, with 35.4 percent of the nation's total.

Haybet is the top feed variety and ranks sixth overall. Tradition places seventh and is already accepted by the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) as a malting variety, though just released in 2004. AC Metcalfe completes the top eight. Stark drops from eighth, in 2003, out of the top twelve of 2004.

The data in this report is based on results of a June survey of nearly 800 barley producers conducted by USDA's North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The AMBA and the North Dakota Barley Council provided supporting funds for the survey.

Robust continues to be the most popular barley variety in North Dakota by a substantial margin. It accounts for 44.1 percent of the acres planted, continuing a downward trend from a high of 81.2 percent in 2001. Robust was the leading variety in all districts, except the southwest.

Legacy ranks second for 2004, up from fourth last year. It represents 13.0 percent of the total barley acres planted. Legacy is a six-row barley of medium height, has strong straw strength and medium-late relative maturity.

Lacey is now third, down from second in 2002 and 2003. It represents 12.1 percent of the total barley acres planted in North Dakota.

Haybet is the most popular feed variety for the third consecutive year, sixth overall in 2004. It is seeded on 3.5 percent of the planted acres, mostly in the west central and southwest districts.

AC Metcalfe placed second among varieties AMBA does not currently recommend in North Dakota for malting, and eighth overall with 2.8 percent of the total acres planted. This is the first year AC Metcalfe ranks in North Dakota, though the dual-purpose variety was released in 1999. The two-row barley variety was exclusively planted in the north central district. The medium height variety has medium straw strength and late relative maturity.

Bowman is the third most popular other variety in 2004; the feed variety was tenth overall. Primarily grown in the west central and south central districts, it accounts for 0.7 percent of the barley acreage.

For More Information Contact:

David Knopf, Director, North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service ■ NDSU, IACC 448 ■ Fargo, ND
701-239-5306 ■ E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>